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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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Axle Bearings

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1. Because of an acute shortage of tin, a new metal alloy will be used for locomotive axle bearings in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
2. A total of 110 tons of Babbitt metal which contains tin is required. Fifty-four percent of this is needed in the Betriebswerke (maintenance shops) (Bw), the remainder in the railroad repair shops (RAW).
3. The new alloy is a 98-percent-lead Babbitt metal with admixtures of calcium, barium, magnesium and some aluminum. With the previously used metals of type Wm 10 and Wm 80 the lowest melting points were 240°C and 180°C, respectively. With the new alloy it is 340°C; axle ends and journals thus remain smooth.
4. The new type alloy is firm and tough but not brittle. It is being produced in the Sud Werk of the former IG Farben Plant in Bitterfeld, renamed Elektro-Chemisches Kombinat. Experiments made with the new alloy have proved successful. *

* Comment: Babbitt metal is a critical item for the Soviet Zone railroads. For this reason the experiments mentioned have been made with the new alloy. It remains to be seen whether the new material will really be a success.

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